

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02111 131700Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 131615Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3260

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, VT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PAPAL AUDIENCE

REF: ROME 1880

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD 45-MINUTE PRIVATE "UNOFFICIAL" AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL FEB. 9, FOLLOWING WHICH ECHEVERRIA AND POPE WENT TO CONSISTORY HALL IN VATICAN TO GREET LARGE GROUP OF MEXICANS ASSEMBLED FOR OCCASION. EMPHASIS OF VISIT WAS DEFINITELY ON INTERESTS IN DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND "CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES" RATHER THAN ON BILATERAL MATTERS.

2. IN HIS REMARKS TO GUEST, POPE SAID "I DO NOT THINK I AM DEPARTING FROM THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THIS MEETING IS TAKING PLACE BY SAYING THAT MY GREETINGS ALSO GO TO ALL MEXICANS, WHO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GRASP THE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE MOMENTS, MEMORABLE FOR SO MANY REASONS." POPE EXPRESSED HIS PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FOR PROGRESSIVE MEXICAN PEOPLE. HE THEN MENTIONED CHURCH'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FAVORING PEACE, DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL PROMOTION AND CARE OF POOR AND MARGINAL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY "WITHOUT PRETENCE OF COM-

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PAGE 02 ROME 02111 131700Z

PETITION NOR EXCLUSIVENESS." IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO CHARTER,

POPE PRAISED ECHEVERRIA FOR HIS EFFORTS IN CAUSE OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, "BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT ON RIGHTS AND DUTIES, A THEME WHICH I WELL KNOW, YOUR EXCELLENCY HAS PROMOTED WITH SUCH PERSONAL DEDICATION AND AUTHORITY."

3. IN UNUSUAL GESTURE AND NO DOUBT OUT OF DEFERENCE FOR MEXICAN SENSIBILITIES, VATICAN DAILY "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO" DID NOT PUBLISH TEXT OF ECHEVERRIA'S REMARKS TO POPE BUT ONLY PARTIAL PARAPHRASE. IN THIS REPLY, ECHEVERRIA DWELT EXCLUSIVELY ON INTERNATIONAL THEMES, CONCLUDING WITH WISH FOR POPE'S SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF BROTHERHOOD AND JUSTICE.

4. AUTHORITATIVE VATICAN SOURCE INFORMED US THAT CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN POPE AND ECHEVERRIA WERE LIMITED TO INTERNATIONAL THEMES. POPE MENTIONED MEXICO ONLY IN GENERALIZED REMARKS ABOUT MEXICAN PEOPLE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ROME 1880  
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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PAPAL AUDIENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MX, VT, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005